

# The Bug Parc

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Hazel and Willow class went to The Bug Parc near Lenwade. This trip was chosen by Mrs Taylor, Mr Hazel and Mrs MacGowan to link to our scientific learning about animals, classification, insects, habitats and life cycles. The Bug Parc is also ideal for a KS1 trip due to its smaller size and close location, only around 40 minutes away.

At the Bug Parc, the children were split into 3 groups and each group was given guided tours around the site. Each group rotated around the sessions, experts and handling to enable them to access all the Bug Parc had to offer.

## Handling session

During the handling session, the children were given the opportunity to see a range of animals and handle others. They were able to handle a giant African snail, hissing cockroach and giant millipede. The children showed their bravery, resilience and care when handling animals and dealing with their movements and wiggling. The children were able to rise to their own personal challenge and support and encourage one another. During the session, the children also were able to see a scorpion, centipede and a few tarantulas. All of which were kept in enclosures due to their venomous or biting nature. The children were able to ask questions and learn about habitats, protections and diets of all of the different animals. Albie asked about how the centipede protected itself and we all learned that the centipede could bite with the same pain as a wasp sting. We also learned that the land snails hibernate and create a hard covering for their shell opening to help them stay warm.



## Comstock House

In Comstock House the children were able to learn about ants, how big queen ants are and how ants work together to achieve tasks. Ben (a keeper) was there to show the children how ants create their burrows and tunnels, as well as how strong they are. We were able to see ants travel on ropes around the room and learn about their pheromones and how they are able to follow the scent of the group to find their way back home. We also learned that when an ant queen dies the whole colony will die. The children loved looking at the ants and the other leaf cutter ants and insects in the house.

## Hinton House

In Hinton House, another keeper talked to us about large insects called katydids. He showed us praying mantis's and grasshoppers, as well as larger crabs and hermit crabs. We learned that katydids and crickets, use their legs to make noises by itching them against their bodies. He showed us a range of animals which were as big as his hand to tiny ones. We discussed how camouflaged they were and why camouflage was very important for some insects. We also wandered through the arachnids section, where the children could look at large and small spiders and tarantulas including 4 large orb weaver spiders which were up to 8 inches long. The children showed great courage and interest in the spiders and even helped Mrs Taylor through the section (she was very unhappy by the spiders.) We all learned that a cobweb is an old spiders web and most tarantulas don't use webs except for their babies, some burrow in the ground.



## Kirby House

In Kirby House, we learned that many insects and arachnids like scorpions shine luminous yellow or blue under UV lamps and the children were able to see them in their natural habitats. Some beetles were handled by the children, when Ben (the keeper) felt it was suitable to do so. The children were able to see butterfly's hatching and their different stages of life in the butterfly hatchery as well as seeing the many varieties of butterflies to choose their favourite. They were able to see the eggs to caterpillar to chrysalis to hatching stage. The children loved seeing the butterflies and how they are so different from one another. We discussed how all animals even siblings can be so different and yet have similarities.

The children were also given the opportunity to risk assess a play area and use it with their group, use a sand pit and ride pedal bikes.

The children had the chance to play games and relax with each other in their free time at the parc. We had a wonderful day and all of the children 100% would return to the Bug Parc. The children loved the play area, the spiders and the handling session. They loved the scorpions and how they glowed as well as the butterflies and how they were beautiful, colourful and patterned.

